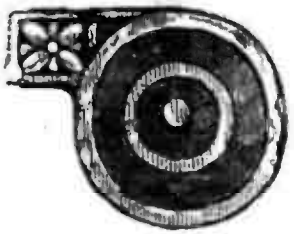
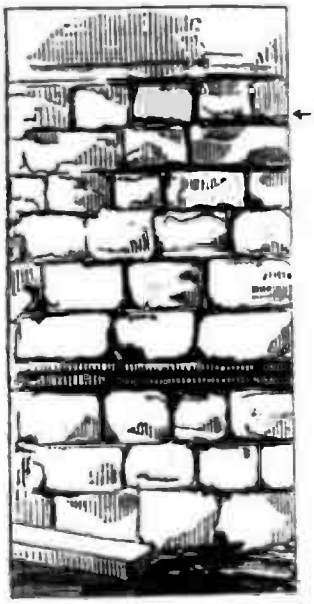
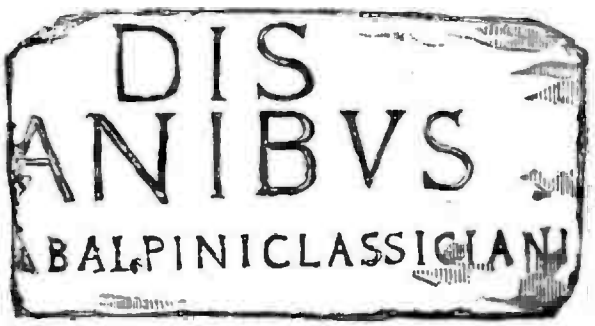
RELICS OF ROMAN LONDON.







THE ROMAN WALL OF THE CITY OF LONDON, AND RELICS.

The crypt, as it has been called, of Gerard's Hall has become a thing of the past: the most ancient vestige of the dwellings of Old London has been removed, and the materials which formed its beautiful proportions are perhaps by this time in the hands of the fair housewives of the city and elsewhere in the shape of "*hearth-stone*." (Some of the finest fragments of St. Saviour's Church, in the Borough, were so disposed of.)

Much cry was made in the City when it was found that the *new street* would pass through and demolish the undercraft of Gerard's Hall: and the wish for the preservation of the undercraft of the old hall by the well-intentioned portions of the public press was responded to by numbers. It was, however, only when the public came generally to understand the matter, that the subject of the preservation of the City crypt was brought before the notice of the London corporation. The City authorities understood, as it would appear, the value of the crypt too late: a street had been arranged to pass over it, and when all had been settled respecting this new street, it was found that, notwithstanding the matters in the way, no alteration could take place.

In this week's paper it becomes our duty to allude to a further desecration of London antiquities, which does not depend on the authority of the parties connected with the City of London.

A large portion of the London Wall, erected in former times, as a means of defence, and standing at the present day as a *historical fact*, remains now, we should think, as high as 30 feet, and extending over a considerable length of ground at the back of Trinity-square; a matter of interest to parties not only in London, but in all parts of the country, and in large populations elsewhere, and which will every year possess increased interest: this has been within the last few days partially covered by the erection of stables for the horses of some persons who have arranged for it with the authorities at the office of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

It was some time since proposed to demolish this part of the City Wall, and the conductor of this journal then aided in preventing its destruction. It might have been hoped, as the relic was not to be removed for the purpose of building a church on the site, that at any rate it would not be disfigured for the accommodation of horses.

This part of the City Wall is in the hands of the Commissioners of the Woods and Forests, and of course is *public property*. This fragment is of a value that cannot be replaced: and as many little City churchyards are spared,—London pollutions,—where land is of more value, we cannot but think that it is want of a proper appreciation of ancient remains, and even needful modern improvements, which so often influences those who by their position have the means and ought to rectify such abuses.

As taste improves, and as each generation increases in knowledge, so will the regret for such disfigurements as that of the old wall of London be looked upon in a stronger light.

Our readers may form some notion of the relics of Roman London which have been brought to light, probably after a concealment of 1,000 years, from the accompanying drawings. The fragments would seem to be parts of a building of considerable extent and enrichment,—the volute of a capital (if it be such), which has been removed to the British Museum, is of considerable beauty, and is about 5 feet in length; the other remains consist of mouldings, and variously formed blocks of stone: a part of an incised stone, some of the letters on which are 9 inches in length, has also been discovered. The letters on this stone were found by one of the workmen accidentally tapping it with his foot while eating his dinner. The size of the stone is 5 ft. 4 ins. by 2 ft. 6 ins. and 1 ft. 2 ins. thick. The group of other stones shown in the engraving have been carted to a yard in the possession of Mr. Benson, 27, Buxton-street, Spitalfields. We trust that some measures will be taken for their careful examination and preservation: it is possible that other matters connected with this Roman structure will be yet discovered, as the excavations for the new building are not yet completed, and may afford materials for a restoration,—on paper.

The illustrations in connection with the London Wall are—

Fragments of a Roman Building found at the northern portion of the City Wall at Tower-hill—carted away to Spitalfields.

Inscription on a stone found at the above place: the letters of the top line are 9 inches in height: the inscription is imperfect.

Roman Masonry of the London Wall at

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